

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A gemstone having a micro-discrete indicia formed thereon wherein said micro-discrete indicia image was formed using near-field optics, wherein said micro-discrete indicia image has a length no greater than about 10 microns and a height no greater than about 2 microns, said gemstone having an altered color at the loction of said micro-discrete indicia without ablating the surface of said gemstone, said altered color resulting from said near-field optics forming said micro-discrete indicia image. ~~near field optics resulted in an alter of the color of said gemstone for producing said micro-discrete indicia image.~~

2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. (previously presented) A gemstone according to claim 2 wherein in said micro-discrete indicia is provided at a predetermined coordinates on said gemstone.

5. (original) A gemstone according to claim 2 wherein said micro-discrete indicia provides information with regard to said gemstone.

6. (previously presented) A gemstone according to claim 5 wherein said information comprises any of the following:

size, type, manufacturer, retailer, owner, producer, country of origin, mine.